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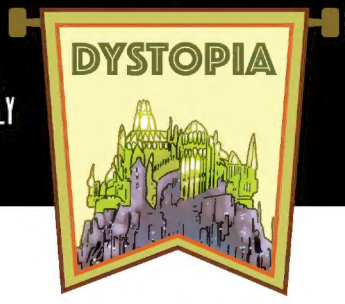
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS **BATTLEWORLD!**

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

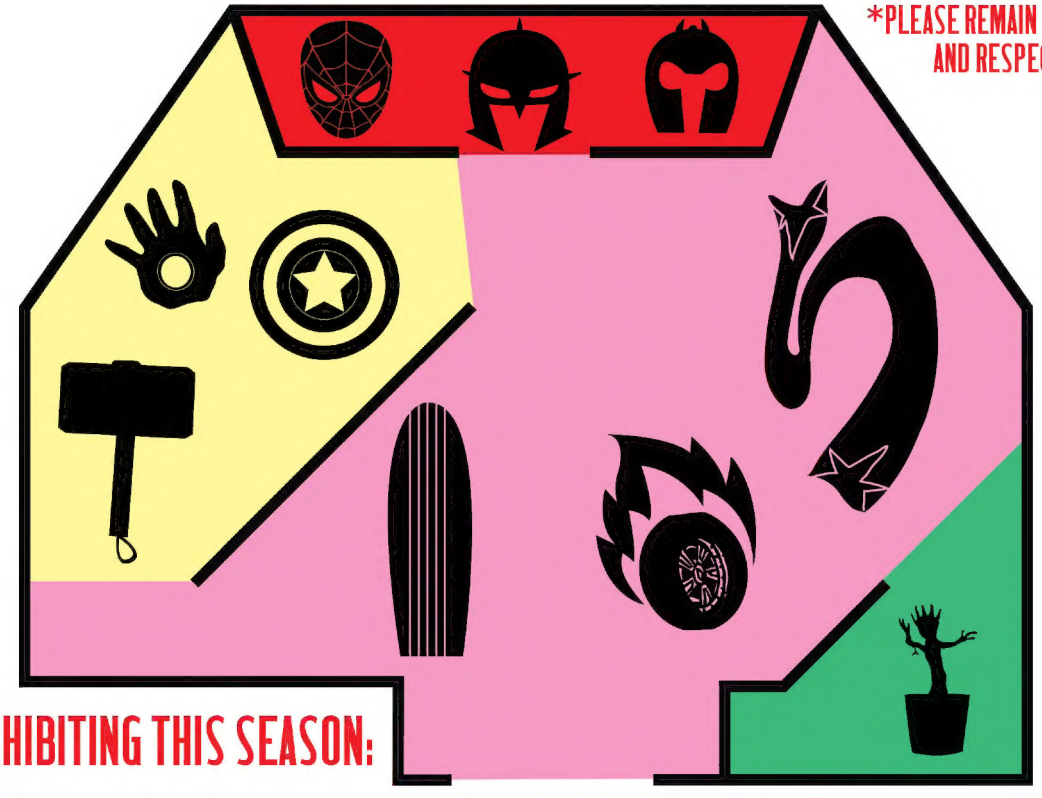
EACH DOMAIN RULED BY POWERFUL BARONS, BUT NONE MORE TIGHTLY CONDUCTED THAN...



SECRET WARS

OUR EXALTED BARON, THE MAESTRO, WELCOMES YOU TO HIS TROPHY ROOM OF CONQUERED OPPONENTS.

*PLEASE REMAIN QUIET AND RESPECTFUL



EXHIBITING THIS SEASON:

- BABY GROOT POTTED PLANT
- CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SHIELD
- HELL CHARGER TIRE
- IRON MAN REPULSOR GLOVE
- MAGNETO HELMET
- MS MARVEL'S SCARF
- NOVA HELMET
- SILVER SURFER BOARD
- SPIDER-MAN MASK
- THOR HAMMER

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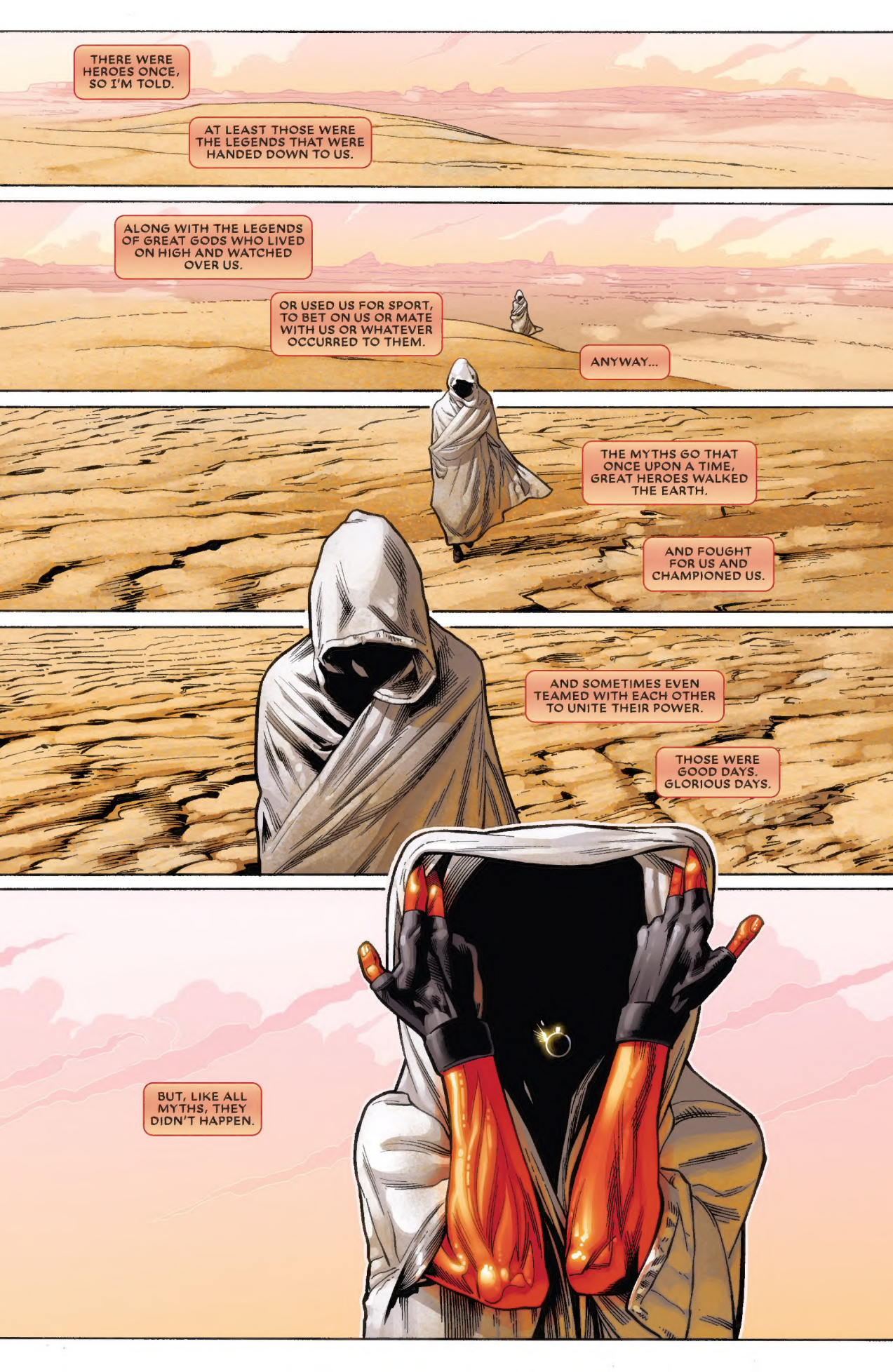
THERE WERE HEROES ONCE, SO I'M TOLD.
AT LEAST THOSE WERE THE LEGENDS THAT WERE HANDED DOWN TO US.
ALONG WITH THE LEGENDS OF GREAT GODS WHO LIVED ON HIGH AND WATCHED OVER US.
OR USED US FOR SPORT, TO BET ON US OR MATE WITH US OR WHATEVER OCCURRED TO THEM.
ANYWAY...
THE MYTHS GO THAT ONCE UPON A TIME, GREAT HEROES WALKED THE EARTH.
AND FOUGHT FOR US AND CHAMPIONED US.
AND SOMETIMES EVEN TEAMED WITH EACH OTHER TO UNITE THEIR POWER.
THOSE WERE GOOD DAYS. GLORIOUS DAYS.
BUT, LIKE ALL MYTHS, THEY DIDN'T HAPPEN.

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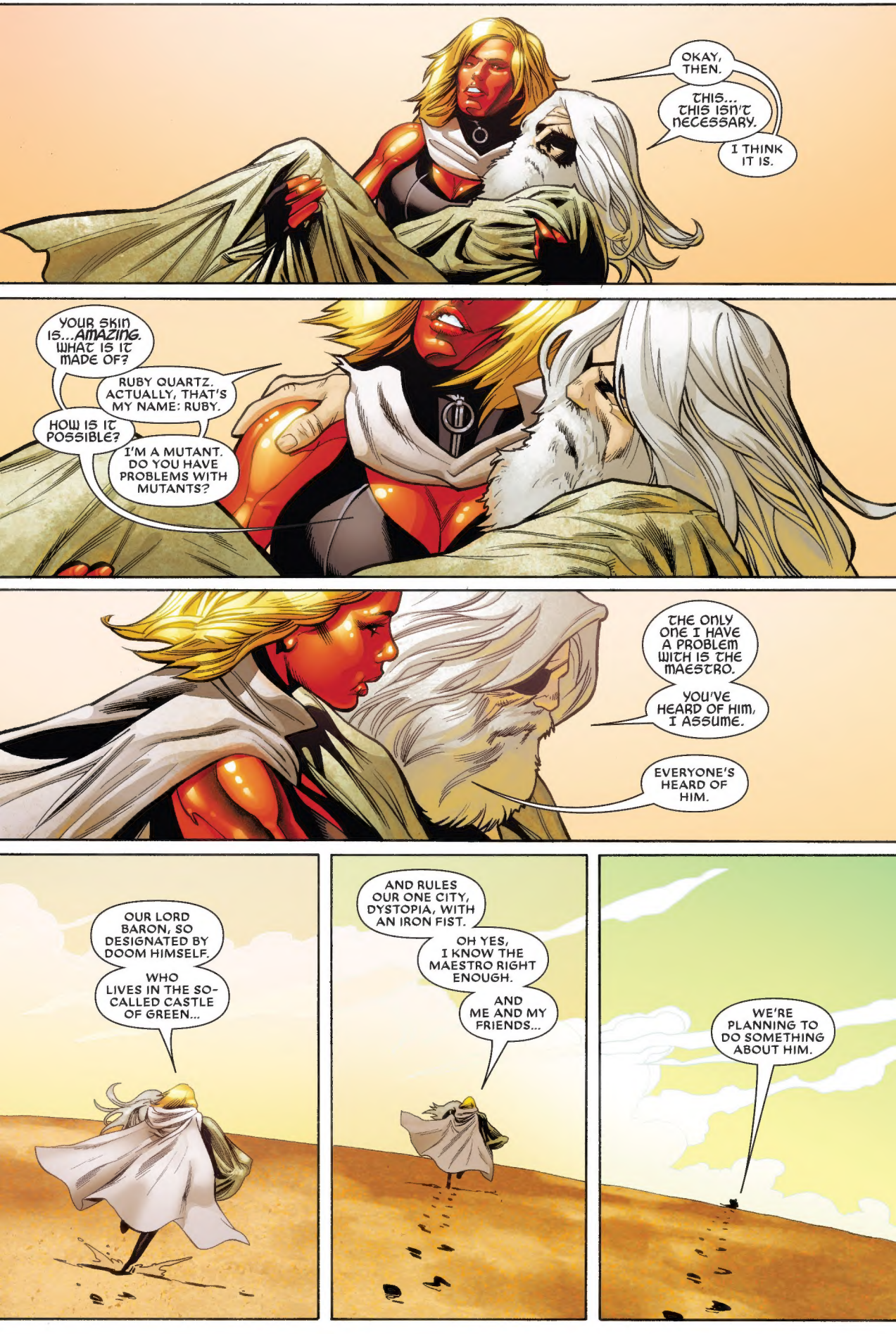
IS THAT...?
I'LL BE DAMNED.
WHAT IN THE HELL IS HE DOING OUT HERE?
HOLD ON! HELP IS COMING!
FIRST WE SEE IF HE'S ALIVE. IF HE IS, I DO WHAT I CAN.
IF HE ISN'T, I STRIP HIM AND SEE IF HE'S GOT ANYTHING USEFUL.
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?
NAME'S RUBY. DON'T STRAIN YOURSELF.
WHO ARE YOU?
ONCE UPON A TIME...
THEY CALLED ME ODIN.

"ODIN." LEGEND SAYS THAT'S THE NAME OF THE KING OF THE GODS.
NEVER MET ONE *IN PERSON*, THOUGH.
NOW YOU HAVE.
HERE. DRINK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE ANYWAY?
DYSTOPIA IS MILES IN THE OTHER DIRECTION.
THAT IS SOMEWHAT THE POINT.
I WISHED TO BE QUIT OF IT, AND OF THE MAESTRO.
YES, WELL, SO DO A LOT OF PEOPLE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
I COME OUT HERE TO THINK. BLOW OFF STEAM. PLAN.
PLAN? WHAT SORT OF PLAN?
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW?
YES.
NO. I MEAN DO YOU *REALLY* WANT TO KNOW?
YES.


OKAY, THEN.
THIS... THIS ISN'T NECESSARY.
I THINK IT IS.
YOUR SKIN IS...AMAZING. WHAT IS IT MADE OF?
RUBY QUARTZ. ACTUALLY, THAT'S MY NAME: RUBY.
HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
I'M A MUTANT. DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS WITH MUTANTS?
THE ONLY ONE I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH IS THE MAESTRO.
YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM, I ASSUME.
EVERYONE'S HEARD OF HIM.
OUR LORD BARON, SO DESIGNATED BY DOOM HIMSELF.
WHO LIVES IN THE SO-CALLED CASTLE OF GREEN...
AND RULES OUR ONE CITY, DYSTOPIA, WITH AN IRON FIST.
OH YES, I KNOW THE MAESTRO RIGHT ENOUGH.
AND ME AND MY FRIENDS...
WE'RE PLANNING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM.

SO WHAT'S YOUR STORY?
YOU WOULD NOT... BELIEVE ME.
TRY ME.
ONCE...
ONCE I TRULY *WAS* ODIN. THE RULER OF ASGARD.
GET OUT.
I SPEAK THE TRUTH. ONCE I RULED THE GODS. ONCE...
THOR WAS MY SON.
THOR? YOU MEAN *THORS?* DOOM'S ARMY?
THEY WERE NOT ALWAYS SO. BUT MY POWER WAS STOLEN FROM ME, AND NOW...
NOW I AM A SHADOW OF MY FORMER SELF.
"WELL, WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
"AS SOON AS WE GET YOU...
"...TO DYSTOPIA."

I'LL GIVE YOU TWO FOR ONE.
DO YOU HAVE IT IN EXTRA LARGE?
WHAT'S THE PRICE ON THAT?
MY MATE WOULD LOVE THIS!
YOU SAID YOU'D BE GETTING IN MORE THIS WEEK!
I HAPPEN TO BE A CLOSE FRIEND TO THE MAESTRO.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.
SCOOTER, WHERE THE FLARK DID RUBY GET OFF TO?
YOU SCAN HER, JANIS. SHE JUST HAD TO GET OFF ON HER OWN FOR A BIT AGAIN.
FANTASTIC.

WE'RE BUSY TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF A WHOLE COMMUNITY OF ESCAPEES FROM THE MAESTRO'S "ATTENTIONS"...
AND SHE'S OFF WANDERING BY HERSELF. THAT'S PERFECT. THAT'S...
+PSSSSTT+
WANT TO KEEP COMPLAINING ABOUT ME OR DO YOU WANT TO HELP?
GOT SOMEONE MAJOR HERE.
MAJOR?
ODIN? LIKE THE NORSE GOD?
THIS GUY IS ODIN.
NOT LIKE. THE.
ARE YOU RIFFING ME? YOU'RE RIFFING ME, AREN'T YOU?
THIS GUY IS THE FATHER OF THOR? THE THORS?
THAT'S WHAT HE TOLD ME ON THE WAY HERE.
IT IS A...LONG STORY.
LET'S GET HIM TO THE HIDEAWAY.

BECAUSE IF THIS GUY IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS...
...THE BOSS IS *DEFINITELY* GONNA WANNA MEET HIM.
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKING.
THE BOSS?
THE GUY WHO RUNS OUR REVOLT.
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE HIM.
IT'LL BE GREAT. TRUST US.
HOW FAR DOWN DOES THIS GO?
ALL THE WAY.
DID YOU BUILD IT?
SOME. MOST OF IT ALREADY EXISTED WHEN WE FOUND IT.
THIS WAY.
AND WHO ARE YOU, JANIS? ARE YOU A LEADER AS WELL?
YOU KNOW, FOR AN OLD NORSE GOD, YOU ASK A LOT OF QUESTIONS.
I DID NOT MEAN TO BE IMPERTINENT.

THIS IS...MOST IMPRESSIVE.
THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO WERE REJECTED BY ABOVE. THE MAESTRO, SEEMS HE'S GOT STANDARDS FOR THE QUALITY OF HIS CITIZENS.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR US, THEY'D BE FORCED TO LIVE OUT IN GREENLAND. AND NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO LIVE THERE.
INDEED.
SLIDER! FRONT AND CENTER!
SLIDER?
SHE'S GOTTA SCAN YOU.
I AM NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND...
JUST ROUTINE SECURITY.
SLIDER'S GONNA SCAN YOUR THOUGHTS. JUST SURFACE.
MAKE SURE YOU WON'T TRY TO HURT US.
THAT HARDLY SEEMS NECESSARY.
WON'T TAKE BUT A MO'.
SEE? EASY AS--

AAAAAAAHHHH!!!
SLIDER!
NO! NO!!!
SLIDER, GRIP IT! WHAT'S GOING--?
HE'LL KILL US ALL!
KILL US ALL!
WELL, WELL. SO YOU DO HAVE SECURITY.
A BIT LATE, BUT--
NYAAAAAAH!!!
HE'S NOT ODIN.
NO. I'M NOT.

MY NAME IS ACTUALLY ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.

ALTHOUGH NOWADAYS...

I AM TYPICALLY CALLED THE MAESTRO.

FALL BACK! EVERYBODY FALL BACK!
RUBY--!
DON'T WORRY...
I GOT HIM.

KRAAASH
IS THAT THE *BEST* YOU HAVE?
UNDERSTAND, I COULD HAVE MY GRAVITY POLICE DOWN HERE...
...MY PERSONAL SOLDIERS...EVEN SOME DOGS OF WAR...
BUT I'VE NO DESIRE TO WASTE THEIR TIME IF THEY WON'T BE REQUIRED.
RAHOLAAAAM
AH, RUBY SUMMERS. TRYING TO STOP ME WITH YOUR OPTIC BLASTS AGAIN? YOU NEED MORE TRICKS IN YOUR ARSENAL.

HERE IS THE PROBLEM, WOMAN: YOU MADE YOURSELF TOO PREDICTABLE.
YOUR PERIODIC TRIPS INTO THE DESERT GOT NOTICED.
SO I SIMPLY LAY IN WAIT FOR YOU...
...AND YOU BEHAVED EXACTLY AS I THOUGHT YOU WOULD.
DID YOU *TRULY* THINK WE DIDN'T KNOW WHO YOU WERE?
WEREN'T OBSERVING YOU?
WEREN'T AWARE OF YOUR *LIMITS?*
SUCH AS THAT YOU NEED TIME TO RECHARGE YOUR BLASTS?
SO...YOUR BODY IS RUBY QUARTZ, *EH?*
FUNNY THING ABOUT RUBY QUARTZ...
IT'S BREAKABLE.
WAAAM

MY. YOU'RE DURABLE.
STILL... I'VE SHATTERED DIAMOND IN MY TIME.
SO I'M THINKING RUBY QUARTZ SHOULDN'T PRESENT AN INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEM.
CHK
CHK
CHK
YES. THERRRRRE WE GO.
YOU WERE QUITE THE OPPONENT, RUBY. YOU GAVE ME TWO, PERHAPS THREE SECONDS OF CONCERN.
THAT IS TWICE WHAT I TYPICALLY ENCOUNTER.
ZWAK
OWWW

TAKE HIM DOWN!
IF WE CAN BRING DOWN THE MAESTRO, WE CAN FREE DYSTOPIA FROM HIM.
I WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE THAT.
TRULY. TRY TO DESTROY ME. SUCCEED IF YOU CAN.
DO YOU THINK I ENJOY THE LIFE I LEAD? DEALING WITH THE IDIOTS OF THIS CITY EVERY DAY.
RENDERING DECISIONS ON VARIOUS DISPUTES.
WORKING WITH FARMERS TO KEEP EVERYONE FED ON LAND THAT HAS NO INTEREST IN GROWING FOOD.
DO YOU NOT BELIEVE THAT, IF I COULD IMPROVE MATTERS, I WOULDN'T? THAT I WOULD NOT HAPPILY TURN POWER OVER TO YOU AND WALK AWAY INTO THE--
HAAA

THOOOOOM
UNFFFFF!
AHHHHH!
CAN'T... CAN'T END LIKE THIS...
CRUNCH
I'M AFRAID THAT IT CAN.
GOOD-BYE, JANIS. YOU AND YOUR REBELS PROVIDED ME SOME DIVERSION, AND THAT IS ENOUGH--
AW, WOULD'JA JUST SHADDUP ALREADY?
BOSS!
WELL, WELL. YOU.

ME.
to be continued...

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NEXT: HERE'S THE THING...

ALSO AVAILABLE THESE INCREDIBLE GREATEST HITS